

An Atlas of the Tibetan Plateau

By

Michael Farmer



BRILL

LEIDEN | BOSTON

Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments x

Introduction 1

1 Summary 1

2 The Plateau Defined 1

2.1 *Climate and Vegetation* 1

2.2 *Administrative, Ethnolinguistic and Possible Genetic Areas* 2

3 Methodology and Mapping Sources 2

3.1 *Methodology* 2

3.2 *Map Projection* 3

3.3 *Satellite Imagery* 3

3.4 *Problems with Google Maps and Satellite Data* 3

4 Language and Toponymics 3

4.1 *Tibetan Language Representation* 3

4.1.1 Tibetan to Chinese Character Transcription 4

4.1.2 Tibetan to Chinese pinyin Transcription 4

4.1.3 Tibetan to Western Transliteration 5

4.1.4 Wide Diversity of Tibetan Languages and Pronunciation 5

4.2 *Toponymic Rendering in the Atlas* 5

5 Urban Environment 5

5.1 *Economic Patterns of Development* 5

5.2 *Population Mapping – Maps 109 and 110* 6

5.3 *Urban Growth and Development* 6

5.4 *Rural Housing* 9

5.5 *Tibetan Rural Religious Development* 11

6 Infrastructure 11

6.1 *Roads* 12

6.2 *Rail* 12

6.3 *Air* 12

7	Gonpa Classification and Development	12
7.1	<i>Terminology</i>	12
	Table 1: Glossary	13
7.2	<i>Gonpa Lineages and Distribution</i>	15
	Table 2: Gonpa Lineages	15
7.3	<i>Size and Form</i>	15
7.3.1	Very Large Gonpas	15
7.3.2	Large Gonpas	17
7.3.3	Medium Gonpas	17
7.3.4	Small Gonpas	17
7.4	<i>Chörtens, Mani Khorlo and Gyodar</i>	17
7.5	<i>Gonpa Development</i>	20
7.6	<i>Tibetan and Chinese Development Patterns Compared</i>	23
	Maps	29
	Indices	153
	Table 3: Feature codes	155
	Administrative Area Index: Tibetan	156
	Administrative Area Index: Pinyin	164
	Place Name Index: Tibetan	172
	Place Name Index: Pinyin	272